Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims

in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims</u>:

1.-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting presence or absence of a

motor vehicle prescribed heat exchanger in a motor vehicle, comprising the

following steps which are performed during a motor vehicle's operation of the

motor vehicle:

(S1) observing temperature of a heat-exchanger medium and at the same

time observing further current motor vehicle operationally relevant parameters

of the motor vehicle for a given time window;

(S2) determining an expected time gradient of the temperature of the

heat-exchanger medium;

(S3) determining a current time gradient of the temperature of the heat-

exchanger medium; and

Page 4 of 16

Serial No. 10/594,078

Amendment Dated: March 14, 2008

Reply to Office Action Mailed: December 14, 2007

Attorney Docket No. 095309.58177US

(S4) detecting the presence of a prescribed heat exchanger based on the

expected and the current time gradients of the temperature of the heat-

exchanger medium.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein

method step (S1) comprises the following substeps:

(S1-1) measuring values of the temperature of the heat-exchanger

medium in predefined time intervals and plotting the time profile of these

values; and

(S1-2) measuring values of the operationally relevant parameters at

predefined time intervals and plotting the time profiles of these values.

19. (Currently Amended) The A method as claimed in Claim 18, for

detecting presence or absence of a motor vehicle prescribed heat exchanger,

comprising the following steps which are performed during motor vehicle

operation:

(S1) observing temperature of a heat-exchanger medium and at the same

time observing further current motor vehicle operationally relevant parameters

for a given time window;

Page 5 of 16

heat-exchanger medium;

(S3) determining a current time gradient of the temperature of the heat-

exchanger medium; and

(S4) detecting the presence of a prescribed heat exchanger based on the

expected and the current time gradients of the temperature of the heat-

exchanger medium.

wherein method step (S1) comprises the following substeps:

(S1-1) measuring values of the temperature of the heat-exchanger

medium in predefined time intervals and plotting the time profile of these

values; and

(S1-2) measuring values of the operationally relevant parameters at

predefined time intervals and plotting the time profiles of these values; and

wherein method step (S2) comprises the following substeps:

(S2-1) comparing the plotted current operationally relevant parameters

with predefined values;

(S2-2) determining an associated current operating state in accordance

with this comparison; and

Page 6 of 16

(S2-3) determining the temperature gradient expected in this current

operating state.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein

the current temperature gradient is detected in method step (S3) based on the

current values of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium in the time

window.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein

method step (S4) comprises the following substeps:

(S4-1) comparing the current and expected time gradients of the

temperature of the heat-exchanger medium;

(S4-2) taking into account this comparison result with reference to a

predefined threshold value; and

(S4-3) transmitting data signals when a prescribed heat exchanger (2) is

present.

22. (Currently Amended) The A method as claimed in Claim 17, for

detecting presence or absence of a motor vehicle prescribed heat exchanger,

comprising the following steps which are performed during motor vehicle

operation:

Page 7 of 16

(S1) observing temperature of a heat-exchanger medium and at the same

time observing further current motor vehicle operationally relevant parameters

for a given time window;

(S2) determining an expected time gradient of the temperature of the

heat-exchanger medium;

(S3) determining a current time gradient of the temperature of the heat-

exchanger medium; and

(S4) detecting the presence of a prescribed heat exchanger based on the

expected and the current time gradients of the temperature of the heat-

exchanger medium,

wherein method step (S4) comprises the following substeps:

(S4-1) comparing the current and expected time gradients of the

temperature of the heat-exchanger medium;

(S4-2) taking into account this comparison result with reference to a

predefined threshold value;

(S4-3) incrementing at least one counter in accordance with the

comparison result from substep (S4-2);

Page 8 of 16

(S4-4) carrying out method steps (S1) to (S4) until a predefined counter

reading is reached; and

(S4-5) outputting data signals when a prescribed heat exchanger is

present.

23. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein:

the time window is determined to begin at a first time when at least one

operationally relevant parameter reaches a predefined starting threshold value;

and

the time window is determined to end at a second time when the same or

at least one further operationally relevant parameter reaches the same or a

further predefined ending threshold value.

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for detecting the presence of a

motor vehicle prescribed heat exchanger in a motor vehicle, comprising:

at least one the prescribed motor heat exchanger with having a heat-

exchanger medium of the motor of the for a motor vehicle motor;

at least one a measuring device system for measuring the temperature of

the heat-exchanger medium; and

Page 9 of 16

an evaluation device for evaluating data and based on the measured temperature of the heat-exchanger medium for detecting the presence of [[a]] the prescribed heat exchanger.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the measuring device system comprises:

at least one temperature sensor for measuring the temperature of the heat exchanger medium;

a holding element for holding the <u>at least one</u> temperature sensor; and a connection device for connection to the evaluation device.

- 26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the holding element is connected to the heat exchanger in a non-releasable manner.
- 27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the holding element for holding the temperature sensor has a holder which corresponds to said temperature sensor.
- 28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the temperature sensor has a predetermined breaking point and is

connected to the holding element such that it is rendered permanently

inoperable after it is removed from the holding element.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 25,

wherein the temperature sensor is a constituent part of an adapter of the

connection device.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 25,

wherein the adapter and the holding element have corresponding fastening

elements which are designed such that they cannot be released following

assembly.

31. (Currently Amended) The An apparatus as claimed in Claim 24, for

detecting the presence of a motor vehicle prescribed heat exchanger, comprising:

the prescribed motor heat exchanger having a heat-exchanger medium of

for a motor vehicle;

a measuring system for measuring the temperature of the heat-exchanger

medium; and

an evaluation device for evaluating data for detecting the presence of the

prescribed heat exchanger wherein the evaluation device comprises:

a memory device for storing values of time profiles of measured values;

Page 11 of 16

a data memory for storing data including predefined threshold values[[,]]

and operating state data and other data; and

at least one counter.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 31, wherein

the evaluation device is a constituent part of [[an]] a motor vehicle on-board

computer of a motor vehicle.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 24, wherein

said evaluation device comprises a processor which is programmed is configured

to:

determine an expected time gradient of measured temperature of the heat-

exchanger medium;

determine a current time gradient of said measured temperature of the

heat-exchanger medium; and

detect presence of a prescribed heat exchanger based on said expected and

current time gradients.

Page 12 of 16